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NEWS

Did You Know - Board of Health

An occasional column about town activities

TARA HUGHES | STAFF WRITER

September 10, 2023 . 12:04 PM — 1 min read

Did you know that Winchester has a 3-member Board of Health? The members are each elected to a 3-year term. The Board is responsi the creation and enforcement of rules and regulations affecting t environment and public health. They are given their duties and

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responsibilities by Massachusetts General Law and the Winchester Home Rule Charter, and such additional powers and duties as may be authorized by the charter, bylaws or by town meeting vote.

The Board of Health also appoints the Director of the Health Department who acts as its agent to ensure compliance with state public health mandates and to implement policies set by the Board of Health. It is the Health Department's mission as a whole to prevent and reduce public health risks, to prepare the community with emergency planning and by formulating regulations and finally to protect the community by enforcing regulations affecting the environment and public health.

They are involved in vaccination clinics, health alerts and education (such as Covid, Monkeypox, Rabies and tick and mosquito borne illnesses) and enforcing regulations on such things as tobacco and nicotine (including vaping) use, food establishments (restaurant inspections), medication and sharps/needle collection and keeping of animals (such as backyard chickens). They also provide information on environmental health and enforce regulations affecting the environment. These include contaminated properties, water testing, climate change and public health, pesticides and a Heat Response Strategy.

Finally, the Winchester Coalition for a Safer Community, part of the Health Department, is a community-based organization that works with residents, town departments and agencies to reduce substance abuse, particularly in the youth, and to foster healthy life choices through education.

To learn more, visit the Board of Health page and the Health Department page. More information on the Winchester Coalition for a Safer Community can be found here.

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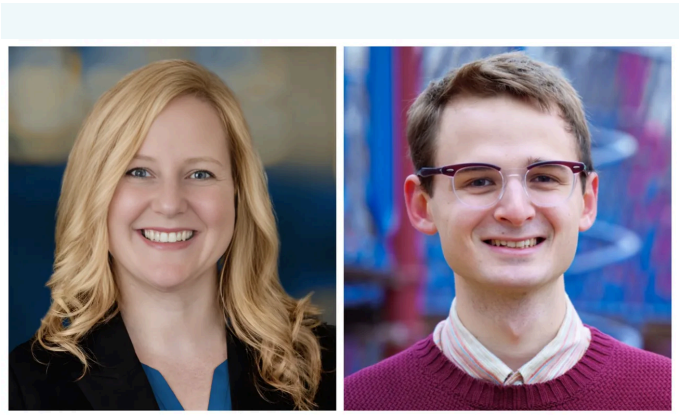

NEWS

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

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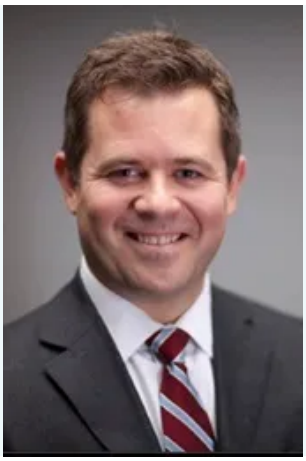

NEWS

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

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NEWS

Winchester gun owners face new training rules starting April 2

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Sen. Jason Lewis, Ma… strengthen fair housing

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Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

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protections for renters, buyers

The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

March 3, 2026

Latest

EVENTS

Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

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FEATURES

‘Chicago: Teen Edition’ dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
March 4, 2026

RIPLEY PRESENTS
SYLDASON: YOU ARE WELCOME HERE
MARCH 13, 2026
7:30 PM
Sylvie Zakarian, marimba and Daniela Tosic, voice
Featuring folk and classical works by Gomidas,
Hovhaness, Minkin, Radan, Tantchev, and Tassone.
fcc-winchester.com/ripleychapel

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents ‘Syldason: You Are Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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